

Phoenix Hose Driver's House
48 Sitgreaves Street
Easton
Northampton County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5582

HABS
PA:
48-EATO.
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Location: 48 Sitgreaves Street, Easton, Northampton County, PA

USGS Easton Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 18.482120.4504420

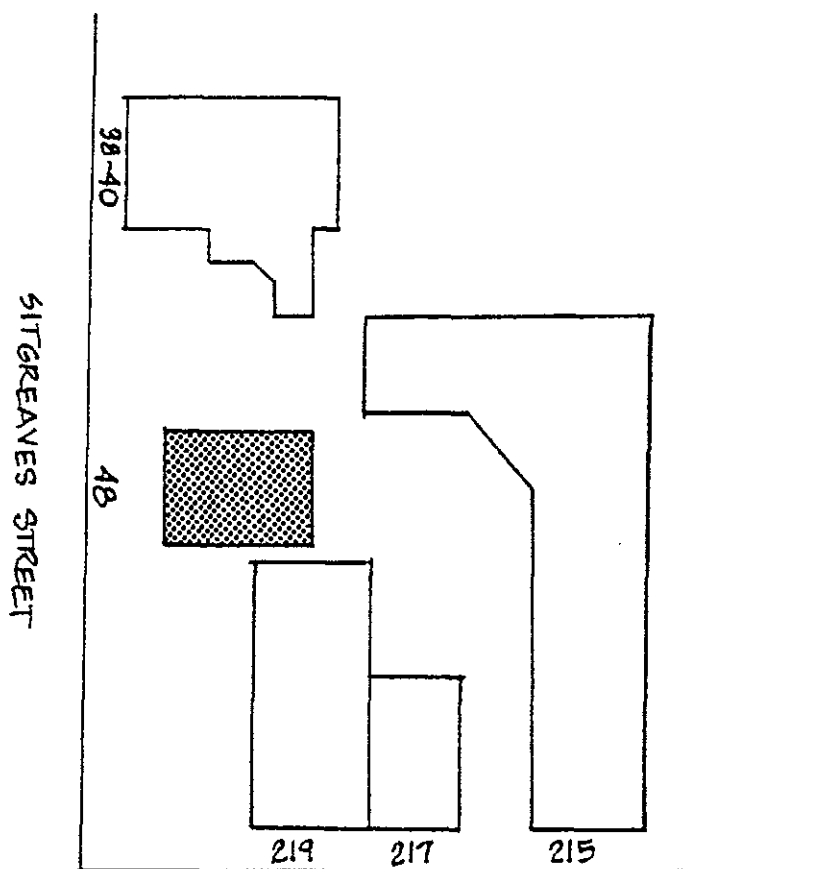
Significance: This is a rare surviving example of the fire engine driver's house, which, with the old Engine House at 219 Ferry Street, marks the evolution of civic institutions in Easton.

Description: The Driver's House is a two and one-half story brick building that is nearly square in plan being 26' wide and 30' 2" wide. In proportion and construction it gives the appearance of being a late Federal style house, dating from the first third of the nineteenth century, with Flemish bond brickwork on the front facade and common bond brickwork on the sides. Window trim is simple and within the plane of the wall with only a projecting wood bay on the second story breaking the otherwise austere front.

On the interior, the original four room plan with hall and parlor on the front and with dining room and kitchen on the rear can still be traced by the outlines on the floor and ceiling of interior partitions. The original chimney breast on the south wall has been removed as well, but the stair with a handsome mahogany rail and beaded board paneling below the stringer remains in place. It has been paralleled by a widened opening in the second floor for the firepole, the upper anchor for which is still visible in the ceiling. All of the interior partitions have been removed on both the first and second stories with the interior loads being carried by a steel girder and lolly column. The third floor garret is reached by a straight stair with a slight turn at the top. Broad dormers on the front and back mark a Victorian alteration, presumably at the time that the Engine House No. 1 (HABS No. PA-5547) acquired the property.

History: On stylistic grounds it seems likely that the house at 48 Sitgreaves Street was built in the first third of the nineteenth century as part of the development of the center of Easton. In 1870 it was acquired by the Phoenix Hose Company at which time it was altered to serve as the house of the engine driver. Local history consistently dates the house from this event, but it seems more likely that this refers to alterations. It is from that time that the second floor bay and the broad slate sided dormers were added to the second story. In the 1930s the building was added to the George Hellick Coffee Company holdings and at that time was altered into a light industrial use. The Easton Historic District was formed in 1983; the properties were acquired by the United States Postal Service for an addition to the existing postal building.

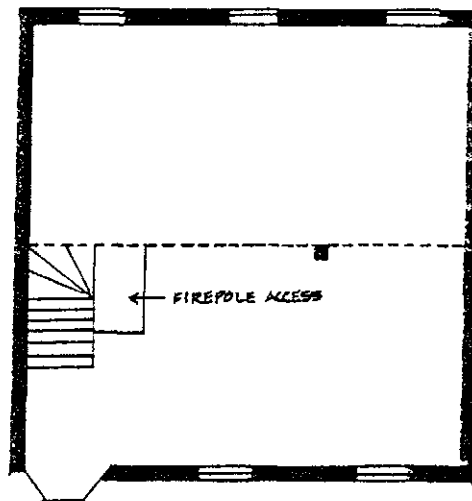
- Sources: Rev. Uzal Condit, The History of Easton, PA, 1738-1885, Easton, 1885 p. 348; D. G. Beers, Pomeroy's Atlas of Northampton County, Philadelphia: 1874, pl. 35; Easton Public Library, vertical file, "Easton, PA Fire Department."
- Historians: George E. Thomas, Ph. D., Emily T. C. Jernigan, Clio Group, Inc. October 12, 1990.



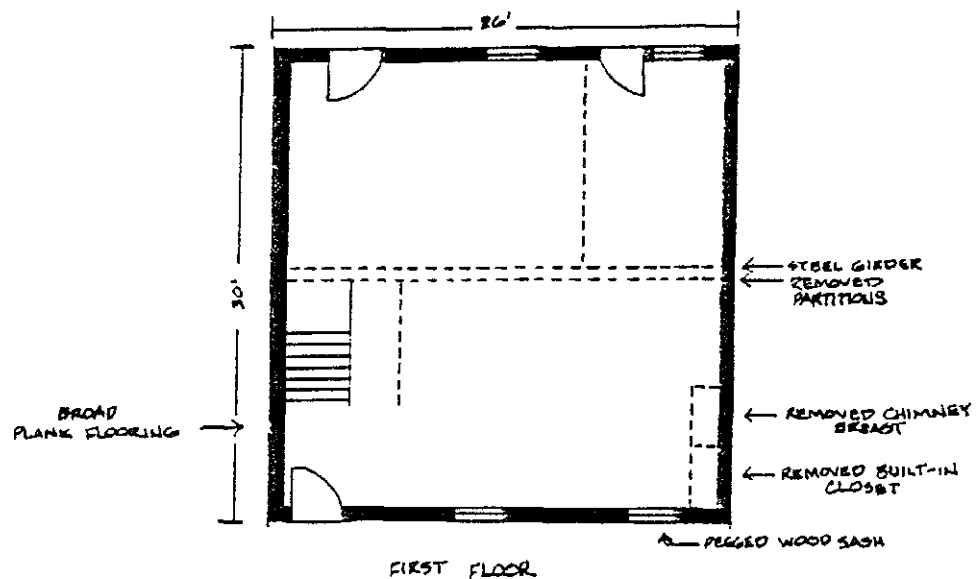
FERRY STREET

EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA





SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

48 SITGREAVES STREET

